

During her long tenure as an educator in Hillsborough County, Mrs. Bryant truly made it her responsibility to care for the children in her classroom. She was known for giving blankets to families that could not afford them and food to children that came to school on an empty stomach. She would even keep soap and deodorant in her office for the students who could not bathe because the water was turned off at their home. She would not let any obstacle stand in the way of educating children. She also served as a dedicated mentor to many teachers under her guidance. Mary Bryant was the educator and leader that we all want in the classrooms teaching our children.

Though she was very humble, Mary Bryant received numerous awards, honors and leadership positions as an educator. In 1986, Mrs. Bryant became the first African-American woman to be appointed an area director for Hillsborough's Area II schools. In 1992, she became the first African-American woman to serve as the assistant superintendent for support services. Also, in 1993, she received the Ida S. Baker minority educator award. Hillsborough County named Bryant Elementary School in her honor.

Even after she retired in 1997, Mary continued to show her love, support and passion for Hillsborough County schools. She volunteered at school events, attended school board meetings, and served as a liaison for new principals. It is clear that her hard work and efforts have influenced countless children and teachers in Hillsborough County. It is for this reason that we would like to honor and recognize the remarkable career and life of Mary Bryant.

I stand with the Tampa Bay community and Hillsborough County Schools as we mourn the loss of a dear friend and colleague. We are proud to recognize Mary Bryant for her outstanding career and her many significant contributions to the Hillsborough County School System. Her determination and hard work have made her an inspirational leader within our community.

#### A TRIBUTE TO THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS PASADENA AREA

#### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2011*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The League of Women Voters Pasadena Area, LWVPA, upon its 75th anniversary.

The Pasadena League was established in late February, 1936, when 50 women—charter members—met in the Pasadena home of Mrs. James Grant Macpherson. Shortly afterwards, on March 31, 1936, about 100 women held a public meeting in Pasadena to launch this local League of Women Voters chapter. Working out of an office in the Women's City Club, the fledgling Pasadena League followed the national League's goals of political education, legislation and getting out the vote, while also focusing on children's issues, city government, and eradication of gender and racial discrimination in housing, education and government.

In the first few years, the new League studied government and child welfare issues, and was instrumental in working on a "street-trader law" that protected youth who sold newspapers on city streets. The 1940s saw the

League leading guided tours of Pasadena City Hall, the appointment of two women to the city's Planning Commission, and assisting on a school bond issue. In the 1950s, the League urged the formation of a redevelopment agency to address blighted residential areas of Pasadena and published a pamphlet, *The Perfect City*, about planning, zoning and urban renewal, and citizen participation.

In the 1960s and 1970s, the League worked on local issues such as school and municipal bonds, and was instrumental in the formation of the Pasadena Human Relations Commission and the Commission on the Status of Women. The League promoted minority representation in local government, backed a 1968 measure to change the election system of the Pasadena City Council, advocated for the integration of Pasadena's public schools and sued the Pasadena Board of Education for violations of the Brown Act over that issue. By 1976, with the expansion of the League to include La C nada Flintridge and Sierra Madre, and the later incorporation of the Alhambra and South Pasadena Leagues, the LWVPA was the second largest league in California and a prominent political force.

The 1980s and 1990s saw the LWVPA produce public affairs programs on cable television, advocate for greater citizen input regarding power deregulation, support local library tax assessments and participate in the study and adoption of Instant Runoff Voting, and SmartVoter.org. From 2000 to 2011, some of the LWVPA's achievements include supporting Prop 11 which established a Citizen's Redistricting Commission, providing objective information on ballot measures and conducting candidate forums, and monitoring affordable housing in local communities.

It is my honor to ask all Members of Congress to join me in congratulating the League of Women Voters Pasadena Area upon 75 years of service to the community.

#### HONORING JOSHUA JAMES THIEME

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2011*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joshua James Thieme. Joshua is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 120, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joshua has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Joshua has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Joshua has earned the Arrow of Light and the rank of Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Joshua has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Joshua restored an 19th century cemetery by clearing trees and brush and rebuilding 24 toppled headstones on the cemetery grounds.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joshua James Thieme for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF SOUTHERN NEVADA

#### HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 8, 2011*

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 70th anniversary of Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada.

In 1941, Bishop Thomas K. Gorman acknowledged the need for a social service organization that would benefit Nevada. He assigned Father Thomas F. Collins as the first diocesan director of the Catholic Welfare Program.

Through boundless efforts and dedication, Father Collins organized programs for the homeless and needy, family programs, adoption services, and provided services to the United Service Organization, USO.

By 1945, the agency was incorporated under Nevada statutes and acquired a non-profit status under the name of Nevada Catholic Welfare Bureau.

In the 1960s, the agency expanded and began development of thrift stores, a child care center, and the St. Vincent Dining Facility.

During the 1970s and 1980s, as the population growth of Las Vegas doubled, more programs were needed and developed for senior citizens, refugee and immigration services, as well as a home for girls in crisis, an emergency shelter, a work program for homeless men, and an employment services center.

In 1995, the name was changed to Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada.

As the senior population of Southern Nevada continued to grow, Catholic Charities incorporated Respite Care and Supportive Services, Marian Residence for Senior Women, Crossroads Transitional Housing for Senior Men, and Telephone Reassurance. In addition, the Social Ministry program was established to provide assistance to outreach programs and the community through resources and program development.

In 1998, a 120 room apartment building for individual residents was finished and Catholic Charities was able to rebuild additional structures for Social Services, Migration Refugee and Immigration Services, Employment Services Program, Resident Work Program and Administration offices.

Since 2006, the Women, Infant and Children, WIC, Food, Homeless to Home, Senior Services Medical Nutrition Therapy, and Foster Grandparent Programs were created to better serve our community.

Catholic Charities strives toward assisting each individual who is seeking help to gain self-sufficiency and independence with dignity by providing diverse social service programs that are designed to assist infants to seniors through the entire community.

As the Representative for Nevada's First Congressional District, it gives me immense pride to recognize the 70th anniversary of Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada as they continue to be one of the largest private non-profit social service providers in the State of Nevada, offering the most comprehensive range of human services.